

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 13249 032032Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05 TRSE-00
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R 032025Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2213
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 13249

USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, CH, ETRD
SUBJ: EC/PRC TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 8410; (B) PEKING 1451 (NOTAL)

1. THE EC COMMISSION APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
EC COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 28 A REPORT ON THE JULY 4-11
DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING BETWEEN COMMISSION AND PRC
OFFICIALS CONCERNING A POSSIBLE EC/PRC TRADE AGREEMENT
(REFTELS). THE COMMISSION ALSO SUBMITTED A DRAFT
NEGOTIATING MANDATE TO THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

2. A COMMISSION OFFICIAL WHO DEALS WITH EC/PRC
RELATIONS (MASLEN) TOLD MISSION OFFICER OCTOBER 3
THAT THE DRAFT MANDATE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE CONSIDERED
BY THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS UNTIL THEIR NOVEMBER 22
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 13249 032032Z

COUNCIL MEETING, SINCE THE INITIAL REVIEW BY PERM REP
EXPERTS IN THE COREPER FRAMEWORK IS UNLIKELY TO
BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE OCTOBER 18 COUNCIL SESSION.
MASLEN CONFIRMED THAT THE COMMISSION'S OBJECTIVE
IS TO OPEN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRC BEFORE
THE END OF THE YEAR.

3. MASLEN TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT THE GENERAL TERMS OF THE DRAFT MANDATE PREDICATE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE EC'S NOVEMBER 1974 OFFER TO STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES OF A NON-PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT, WHICH INCLUDES A PROVISION FOR RECIPROCAL MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE DRAFT MANDATE REFLECT THE OUTCOME OF THE JULY TALKS IN PEKING, AND, IN PARTICULAR, CONTAIN PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE QUESTIONS OF SAFEGUARDS AND BALANCED TRADE CLAUSES (REF B). MASLEN ALSO SAID THAT THE COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE PRC BE LISTED IN A CATEGORY APART FROM OTHER STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF EC TRADE REGULATIONS. MASLEN DESCRIBED THIS RECOMMENDATION AS A PURELY COSMETIC MOVE TO SATISFY THE PRC REQUEST THAT THE PRC BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST OF STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO EC QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS (REFTELS).
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Message Attributes

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